

Posterior edges of wing-membrane bordered with white; bifid tip to fourth finger unusually distinct* ; wings from the base of the fifth toe; post-calcareal lobe small and narrow; tip of calcar projecting slightly from the back of the membrane; tail included in membrane to the extreme tip.

Teeth.—Upper incisors one on each side, long, slender, unicuspid; upper premolars large, quite close to the canines; no trace of a minute anterior premolar. Lower incisors six, the four median ones broad, tricuspid; the outer ones unicuspid, exceedingly minute, practically invisible from in front, and scarcely one twentieth of the size in cross section of the median incisors; far smaller therefore both absolutely and relatively than in *Rh. parvula*.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female in spirit):—

Head and body 47 millim.; tail 41; ear, above head 12·2, from notch 16; tragus, inner margin 7; forearm 35; thumb 5; metacarpal of third finger 33·5; lower leg 15·5; hind foot 7·1; calcar 15.

Skull of a second specimen: occiput to gnathion 14·7; greatest breadth 9·5; distance from front of canine to back of $\frac{m.3}{5.4}$.

Hab. Santa Rosalia, near Autlan, Jalisco, Mexico.

This interesting species shows a relationship to *Nycticejus humeralis* † and to Old-World *Nycticeji* by its dental formula and the unicuspidate character of its upper incisors; to *Rhogeessa* by its obliquely truncated muzzle and its cylindrical $\frac{1}{3}$; and finally to *Antrozous* by its crenulate tragus and by the extreme reduction of the same $\frac{1}{3}$, which is altogether absent in that genus.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Fur-bearing Animals in Nature and in Commerce. By HENRY POLAND. Gurney and Jackson.

WE are told in the preface that this “work is intended, firstly, to aid persons engaged in trade to recognize readily and to have a closer knowledge of the animals with which they are to some extent already familiar, and which they would have some difficulty in finding in more elaborate and scientific works;” and in this respect

* This peculiar bifid tip to the fourth digit does not seem to have been often noticed, as I can find no reference to it, although it occurs more or less developed in *Rhogeessa*, *Antrozous*, *Nycticejus*, *Atalapha*, and certainly in some of the many species of *Vesperugo*.

† For nomenclature see Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) ix. p. 88, 1890; and Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) vii. p. 528 (footnote), 1891.

it amply fulfils its promise. The statistics of the annual sales of furs by the Hudson's Bay Company from 1800 to 1890, as well as of other American and Canadian furs from 1763 to 1891, are very useful, and so are the short histories of the Skinners' and other companies, the descriptions of the arts of dressing and dyeing pelts, the observations on tariffs, and the notices of fairs and periodical sales. It is astonishing to find on unimpeachable evidence that the Hudson's Bay Company sold in 1886 no fewer than 73,878 skins, and in 1887 78,555 skins, of the lynx; and it would be interesting to know if, in those somewhat exceptional years of plenty, the periodical increase of the American rabbit, on which the lynx is known to prey largely, had reached its maximum. Again, the wolverine or glutton enjoys the reputation of being the despair of hunters, taking their baits and springing their traps without, as a rule, falling a victim itself; yet even this cunningest of animals can be circumvented, as shown by the returns of the Hudson's Bay Company, which often exceed 2000 skins in a year, while in 1889, 1131 were obtained from other sources. These instances, out of many which might be adduced, will serve to show that the whole of the Introduction is replete with information; but in the second and principal portion of the work, which is intended "to be a connecting link between commerce and science," and to interest "the general public by adding small sketches of the habits of the animals described," the result is not so satisfactory. An undigested mass of notes made from time to time appears to have been sent to the printer; and although some of these notes are recent and valuable, while the author's remarks are of importance so long as he confines himself to the trade with which he is familiar, yet there are other statements which are very remarkable. It is startling to be told that seals are to be found in the "Balkan" (p. 214); that "in Scotland the Manes of the slain bear was [*sic*] exorcised by the women" (p. 161); and (p. 171) that the Indian sloth-bear "would probably interbreed with the black bear of America, and if the offspring of these two bears should prove fertile, it would necessitate their being classed as one species"! Without admitting the *sequitur* we will, in connexion with this subject, make Mr. Poland and our readers the present of an interesting fact which appears to have escaped the notice of the recorder of Mammalia in the 'Zoological Record' for 1888. Dr. Nills, the Director of the Zoological Gardens at Stuttgart, states that, having obtained two litters by crossing male *Ursus maritimus* with female *Ursus arctos*, he then crossed a female hybrid with male *U. maritimus*, and produced offspring exactly like the polar bear in shape and colour. Turning to the hyæna, Mr. Poland seems to be acquainted with only one species, namely the South African *H. crocuta*, for under this heading he tells us that "1650 hyænas were killed in British India in 1886," apparently without a suspicion that these must have been *H. striata*. It is a pity that the author did not secure the assistance of some zoologist, who would have struck out many of the errors and even absurdities which this book contains, especially in connexion with

sport; but then the book would not have been half so funny as it is—*e. g.* the articles on the fox and the otter. At the same time the work contains a large amount of information which could not easily be found elsewhere; it is well illustrated, and, inasmuch as its merits distinctly outweigh its defects, which are amusing, we may fairly recommend it, even to naturalists.

Horn Measurements and Weights of the Great Game of the World: being a Record for the use of Sportsmen and Naturalists. By ROWLAND WARD. Published by the Author, 166 Piccadilly.

It might be thought that a book which deals with the measurements of Great Game would prove interesting principally to the sportsmen whose trophies were therein recorded; but a wider circle will be attracted by this volume, inasmuch as it also appeals to the naturalist. The author modestly disclaims any pretensions to the production of a scientific work; but nevertheless this book deserves the notice of those scientific men who appreciate exactness, for, to quote the title of the diploma-picture of an eminent Royal Academician, "Science is Measurement." It is no small advantage to have at hand a volume to which reference can at once be made for the extreme as well as the average dimensions of the antlers of deer, the horns of sheep, wild goats, buffaloes, &c.; the substances popularly known as "horns" which grow on the snouts of rhinoceroses; the tusks of the hippopotamus, of the two existing species of elephants, and of the wild boar; and the skins of the lion and tiger. All these and many other interesting details are to be found in this profusely illustrated and handsome book. The descriptions of some of the rarer antelopes are likely to prove of considerable utility to zoologists; the geographical distribution of all the animals mentioned seems to be indicated with unusual accuracy; and much of the information conveyed is new or at least recent. For instance, it may safely be said that never before has such a record of the dimensions of the grand wild sheep of the Pamirs, *Ovis poli*, been accessible to naturalists. If we have to make a trifling complaint it is that the two undoubtedly distinct species of African rhinoceros are mixed up under the common heading of *R. bicornis*, with merely asterisks and footnotes to indicate the horns which are those of the almost, and perhaps quite, extinct *R. simus*. It is indeed grievous to think that, so far as we are aware, there is not in any collection a single adult example of this huge square-mouthed grass-eating species, which will only be known to the next generation by a very few horns and through old pictures. It is difficult to give suitable extracts from a work of this kind; but we can testify to its general merits, as well as to the manner in which the author has endeavoured to assist scientists by sending rare specimens to the British Museum and the Zoological Society for inspection and determination.